

# Memorandum

**ACTION:** Advisory Circular (AC) 70/7460-1

Date: Apr. 6, 2004

**From:** Program Director for Air Traffic  
Airspace Management, ATA-1

**To:** Regional Air Traffic Division Managers

The American Bird Conservancy has requested that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) standardize existing requirements for lighting systems on tall structures to minimize mortality to migratory birds. Specifically, the American Bird Conservancy, based on guidelines developed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, requests that the FAA reduce the issuance of aeronautical determinations recommending red lights at night and that white strobe lights be recommended for nighttime conspicuity.

The Federal Communications Commission has issued a Notice of Inquiry regarding the effects that may provide some guidance on and further study. At this time, there are no plans to change the existing standards in Advisory Circular (AC) 70/7460-1, Obstruction Marking and Lighting. From a safety perspective, we believe that the current standards and guidance are necessary to appropriately light obstacles and to avoid creating a hazardous condition for pilots. In the interim, we have agreed with the American Bird Conservancy, that when feasible and in cases in which safety would not be derogated, to consider and recommend the use of white lights for nighttime conspicuity instead of red lights.

It should be noted that in accordance with AC 70/7460-1, the use of which lights for nighttime conspicuity within three nautical miles of an airport or in populated urban areas is discouraged and should also be considered when making a marking and lighting recommendation.

Therefore, in consideration of the agreement between the FAA and the American Bird Conservancy, please advise your staff that medium intensity white strobe lights for nighttime conspicuity is to be considered the preferred system over red obstruction lighting systems to the maximum extent possible without compromising safety. Please refer to Chapter 6, Medium Intensity Flashing White Obstruction Light Systems, AC 70/7460-1K for specific guidance.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Reginald C. Matthews, Manager, Airspace and Rules Division, ATA-400, at (202) 267-8783.

**SabraW Kaulia**